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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 18, 1978

Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

As you may be aware, the staff of the Subcommittee on Evaluation has been conducting a study of the intelligence community's indications and warning capabilities.


Since NIE 4-1-78 Warsaw Pact Concepts and Capabilities for Going to War in Europe: Implications for NATO Warning of War falls within the scope of this study, the staff has reviewed it closely and prepared the attached two-part assessment. It is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis but seeks to examine a few salient issues. The first part of the report discusses the NIE's treatment of the ambiguity of warning, and the second addresses the apparent differences of opinion over the last few years concerning Soviet attack options and the warning time that might accrue to US/NATO.

It is the staff's assessment that this NIE, being the first devoted to addressing the warning problem in Europe, should have attempted to clear the air concerning previous warning judgments and developed a presentation of evidence similar to that in NIE 11-3/8. Instead, judgments appear with little rationale, and it is difficult to determine what has changed the community's perception of scenarios, force postures, and warning times.

You may, if you wish, circulate this report as you see fit. Once your staff has completed its review, the Subcommittee wishes to meet with them to discuss some of the issues brought out in the report. Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director, can be contacted to set up this session.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD P. BOLAND
Chairman

Enclosure

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